

Message Text

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40

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /085 W

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R 172106 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9482

INFO USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3287

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CU, VE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CREATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IN
CUBA

REF: CARACAS 2987 (NOTAL)

1. COPEI LEADER AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ODCA) LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS CATEGORICALLY DENIED TO PRESS APRIL 13 NEWS REPORTS CITED REFTEL TO EFFECT COPEI HAS HAD ROLE IN FOUNDING OF A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN CUBA. HERRERA, WHO PERSONALLY AND THROUGH ODCA WOULD HAVE BEEN LOGICALLY INVOLVED IN SUCH MOVE, DENIED HAVING HAD " EVEN THE INTENTION" OF TAKING THIS INITIATIVE.

2. HERRA SAID FLATLY CASTRO REGIME " SEEMS TO BE OPPOSED TO IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL PLURALISM." HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT NEWS STORIES THAT A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION WOULD BE PERMITTED IN CUBA, NOTING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP OF CUBA IS IN EXILE. HERRERA CLAIMED ONLY VENEZUELAN LEADER WHO HAS RECENTLY TALKED WITH CASTRO HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SPORTS INSTITUTE DURING VISIT TO HAVANA, AND SAID THEY TALKED ONLY ABOUT SPORTS.

3. COMMENT: HERRERA STATEMENT WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY IN RESPONSE TO STRONG DEMANDS FOR COPEI CLARIFICATION BY EXILED CUBAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER CITED REFTEL.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA03287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730445/aaaairpg.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 CARACAS 2987
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980123
Subject: POSSIBLE CREATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IN CUBA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CU, VE
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO FOR POLAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005